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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/728,172

12/03/2003

Anne Elizabeth Gattiker

AUS920030654US1

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7590

11/30/2005

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EXAMINER

GARBOWSKI, LEIGH M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2825

DATE MAILED: 11/30/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/728,172

Applicant(s)

GATTIKER ET AL. 

Examiner

Leigh Marie Garbowski

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2825

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,6-8,13-15,20 and 21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-5,9-12 and 16-19 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 December 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 02/06/2004 (3 sheets)

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: element "52" in figure 4B is not mentioned in the specification. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: "24" [at page 10, line 7] is an incorrect element number. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 6-8, 13-15, 20-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Vogels ["Effectiveness of I-V Testing in Comparison to IDDq Tests"].

As per claims 1/8/15, a method/computer program product/workstation comprising: reading a plurality of quiescent power-plane current values at a plurality of

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corresponding power-plane voltages for a test vector for which said shorting defect is activated [section 3.1, paragraph 1]; detecting a change in linearity of said plurality of power-plane current values with respect to said power-plane voltages [section 3.1, paragraph 2; section 3.2; figure 5]; and evaluating a severity of said shorting defect in conformity with a result of said detecting [section 3.1, paragraph 2; section 3.2]. As per claims 6/13/20, wherein said evaluating comprises: determining whether or not a power-plane voltage corresponding to said change in linearity is above a predetermined threshold; and in response to determining that voltage is above said predetermined threshold, rejecting said IC as a failure [section 3.3, paragraph 3; section 5, "I-V-Tests"]. As per claims 7/14/21, further comprising selecting said test vector as a vector having a highest power-plane quiescent current value at a predetermined operating voltage from among a set of test vectors [section 3, paragraph 1].

Claims 1, 8, 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lisenker et al. ["Short High Voltage Stress for Design-to-Process Characterization"].

A method/computer program product/workstation comprising: reading a plurality of quiescent power-plane current values at a plurality of corresponding power-plane voltages for a test vector for which said shorting defect is activated [Introduction, paragraph 4]; detecting a change in linearity of said plurality of power-plane current values with respect to said power-plane voltages [Parametric Product Baseline, paragraphs 2 and 4]; and evaluating a severity of said shorting defect in conformity with a result of said detecting [Parametric Product Baseline, paragraph 6].

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-5, 9-12, 16-19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art of record does not disclose, teach, or suggest the further features presented in combination with the features recited in the independent claims in their totality.

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Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Please review the references provided via form PTO-892.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leigh Marie Garbowski whose telephone number is 571-272-1893 and e-mail is Leigh.Garbowski@uspto.gov. The examiner can normally be reached on days.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew Smith can be reached on 571-272-1907. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



**LEIGH M. GARBOWSKI
PRIMARY EXAMINER**